

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Insert after the title:

### **--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a divisional of U.S. application no. 10/098,359, filed March 18, 2002, pending, which is a continuation of the national stage designation of PCT/MX00/00035, filed September 14, 2000, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein in their entirety.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 23 as follows:

-- Hepatic cirrhosis is a disease resulting from hepatic chronic damage. Damage might be toxic (chronic ingestion of alcohol), infectious (viral hepatitis, mainly by hepatitis B and/or C virus), immunological, (primary biliary cirrhosis), by biliary obstruction, (secondary biliary cirrhosis), metabolic (Wilson's disease). All forms of cirrhosis have characteristics in common: synthesis and excessive deposition of proteins of extracellular matrix (ECM), (mainly collagen I and to a lesser extent collagens IV and III), and consequently the formation of nodules of hepatocytes, abnormal vascularization and portal hypertension (Antoni PP, Ishak KG, Nayak NC, Poulsen HE, Scheuer PJ, Sabin LH. The morphology of cirrhosis: definition, nomenclature, and classification. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. 1977; 55:521-540 y Scott L. Friedman The cellular basis of hepatic fibrosis: Mechanisms and treatment strategies. The New England Journal of Medicine 1993, vol. 328 No. 25:1828-1835). These physiopathological processes lead to an alteration in the blood supply and in consequence in the nutrition of hepatic cells. Regardless of the ethiological agent and morphologic differences, all forms of cirrhosis have as a common end, hepatic failure causing the patient's death. --